

diverse city it is today, by hosting a number of international students. Texas Southern University, which is located in the heart of metropolitan Houston, proudly serves students of diverse socioeconomic, cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds. Moreover, Texas Southern University is poised towards a greater tomorrow—its academic programs are designed to encourage and develop America's future model citizens.

The fighting Tigers of TSU dominated defensively throughout the December 11th game against the Alabama State Hornets at Legion Field. With the final and, winning score of 11–6, the Tigers were able to rejoice in the reclamation of the SWAC Championship, the team's first since 1968—but this time it is theirs alone. Guided by Coach Cole, and led by Dejuan Fulghum, Defensive MVP of the Championship game, and Riko Smalls, Offensive MVP of the Championship game, the fighting Tigers were able to bring home the SWAC championship.

Coach Johnnie Cole achieved many successes in his tenure at Texas Southern University. By transforming and revitalizing the Tigers' football team, he truly has brought football back to TSU. Coach Cole has had a long history with TSU, ever since he played on losing TSU football teams in the 1980s. Though, this year, Coach Cole turned a new leaf for TSU, by coaching an astoundingly successful and triumphant football team all the way to the SWAC championship. Since joining the football leadership team in 2008, Coach Cole has ignored the defeatist mentality and has a renewed focus on reigniting the school spirit for the TSU Fighting Tigers. This year, they finished the season on an eight game winning streak, and Cole bringing TSU the first Conference Championship since 1968 was "icing on the cake." I would like to congratulate Coach Johnnie Cole on his recent award for the Southwestern Atlantic Conference's Coach of the Year; his success represents the future of TSU. It truly was a great combination—with Coach Johnnie Cole, athletic director Charles McClelland, a supportive and spirited student body, and finally a hardworking and motivated football team—that led the fighting Tigers to a great year of dignity, sportsmanship, and success.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take a few moments to recognize the Most Valuable Players from the 2010 Southwestern Atlantic Conference Championship game. I believe that they exhibited the great athleticism and leadership that paved the way for the Tigers' Championship on December 11. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Dejuan Fulghum, the SWAC's Defensive Player of the Year, and the Championship Game's Most Valuable Defensive Player. Dejuan Fulghum is a senior linebacker, who has had a tremendous career with the TSU Tigers. He led the Southwestern Atlantic Conference in sacks, with nine this year, and was third in tackles, with 91. Furthermore, he recorded an interception and two forced fumbles that led to the Football Championship Subdivision designating TSU as the number two defensive team. The Championship Game's Most Valuable Offensive Player, Riko Smalls, a sophomore quarterback, was called to the field on last Saturday, when senior quarterback Arvell Nelson was unable to play. Riko Smalls helped place TSU in the best position for winning the Championship, and rose to his role as a leader on the field.

Riko Smalls' first start with the TSU Tigers, in arguably their most important game, demonstrates the growing capabilities of the Texas Southern Tigers and of the TSU coaching staff. The entire team was well prepared to succeed that day and I congratulate all the Texas Southern Tigers; and, I would like to commemorate the success of their football team, which can now claim the title of the best college football team in Houston.

In representing the eighteenth district of Texas, I am proud to commemorate the fighting Tigers of TSU for their athletic success, and moreover, to commemorate the greater TSU community for their scholastic drive and dedication to becoming champions on and off the field.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND CLINICS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Minnesota's Children's Hospital and Clinics for being named a "top hospital" by the Leapfrog Hospital Survey. Not long ago, I had a chance to visit Children's, and I saw firsthand how their commitment to improve patient safety is second to none. Their many safety initiatives have helped patients achieve one of the lowest rates of hospital-acquired infection in the Nation, and their use of electronic medical records has helped further reduce complications and improve patient care.

Minnesota has long been ahead of the curve when it comes to health care. From life-saving technologies and medical technologies to continually striving to create the most effective and efficient health care system, our hospitals have earned a reputation for excellence and innovation in health care. Congratulations to Minnesota's Children's Hospital and Clinics, and thanks for your tireless efforts to provide your patients with the best possible care.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### AFGHANISTAN'S HEAVY COST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, the war in Afghanistan continues to prove to be

an impossible task. Enough is enough. America is spending \$7 billion a month on the war. To break it down further, that is approximately \$233 million a day on the war, with no end to it at all. Madam Speaker, to reset our equipment alone will cost in excess of \$13 billion, just to bring it back to the same position it was prior to going into Iraq and Afghanistan. It is impossible to absorb this amount of money, particularly with the debt this country has and the fact that we can't even pay our own bills without borrowing money from China, Japan, and the UAE.

Yesterday in an article in The Washington Post, Afghan President Karzai stated that he "now had three enemies: the Taliban, the United States, the international community." He also said in The Washington Post article that if he had to choose sides, he would choose the Taliban. This is what our young men and women are dying for.

Madam Speaker, I have on the floor with me today a photograph taken of the Air Force Honor Guard at Dover Air Force Base, escorting the remains of an American hero off the plane. Madam Speaker, this is just not worth the cost of our young men and women dying, and it's not worth the cost that it is costing the taxpayers.

In addition, I read another article that I would like to quote from. It was an AP article entitled, "No Decisive Victory One Year Into Afghan Surge." It really gathered my attention. In the article, a citizen of Afghanistan stated, "Every day that passes, the security situation is getting worse. The government is not in a position to bring peace. Every day, the Taliban are getting more powerful than the government."

Madam Speaker, again, today I have this poster on the floor because, in my mind, since we don't draft young men and women anymore to fight wars, and it is a volunteer service, and they are doing a magnificent job, but with four, five, and six deployments, they are wearing down. They're wearing out. Their suicides are up, and divorces are up as well.

□ 1900

Last week, we had six Americans killed in a bombing in Afghanistan. We continue to repeat history. This case of Afghanistan history will show that no nation has ever conquered Afghanistan. It will always be a vast country of 1,400 different tribes. What are we trying to do? Why are we continuing this war effort?

I join my friend JIM MCGOVERN. I join my friends in both parties that are saying to the President, please, Mr. President, rethink. Don't stay there four more years because it's not going to be worth it. It's not worth it now. And, Madam Speaker, after 10 years, going on 10 years of being in Afghanistan, we continue to see no end to this commitment that, in my humble opinion, is not worth one American life.

So, Madam Speaker, as I do frequently on this floor, I'd like to close